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WESTHOUGHTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year 1952.

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Westhoughton Urban District Council.

Public Health Committee

Chairman: Mrs. W. Kettle J.P., C.C.

Vice Chairman: Councillor A. Ormesher.

Councillors:

Mrs. Ashworth H. Nickson

W.E. Molyneux

J. Higson A.G. Woods

Public Health Officers of the Authority

Medical Officer of Health:

T. Patton Sewell, M.D., Ch. B., D.P.H. V.U. Manc.

Sanitary Inspector:

J. Occleshaw, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerical Assistant:

Miss E.A. Gerrard.

Also Divisional Medical Officer: Divisional Health Committee No. 11, Lancashire County Council.

Divisional School Medical Officer
Lancashire County Council.

Medical Officer of Health:

Borough of Leigh,
Urban District of Atherton,
" " " Horwich,
" " " Tyldesley.

Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Westhoughton.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District of Westhoughton for the year 1952, together with certain statistical information thereto, for your information and consideration.

STATISTICS:

The population of the district in 1952 was 14,910, a decrease on the figure ascertained at the census in 1931.

During the year a total of 197 births were registered, of which 8 were still births, so that the Live Birth Rate for the year under review is 13.1 as against 11.8 the previous year, and the Still Birth Rate 39 as against 22 in 1951.

Five infants failed to survive to their first birthday giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 25 for the year, as against 3 deaths and a rate of 17 the previous year.

I am pleased to be able to report that, for the sixth year in succession, there has been no maternal death so that the Maternal Mortality Rate remains at nil.

The number of deaths, from all causes, was 178 giving a Crude Death Rate of 11.9.

HEALTH SERVICES

The Lancashire County Council, through its Divisional Health Scheme, 1947, has continued to provide the personal health services in the district, details of which will be found in Section B of the report, to-gether with certain essential information in regard to other services.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

As previously the sanitary circumstances in the district have been kept under close supervision details of which will be found in Section C. Particular attention has been given to water, milk and food supplies and to housing.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There has been no serious outbreak of infectious disease during the year. Having regard to the particular year in question and to the incidence experienced in other districts the measles outbreak has been comparatively slight.

Details of the various diseases concerned will be found in Section F of the Report.

Yours sincerely,

T. PATTON SEWELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions of the area.

GENERAL

Area of the district, in acres	-	5,554
Population - 1952, Estimated	-	14,910
" - 1931, Census	-	16,018
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of year	-	4,792
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	-	£272

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

		Male	Female	Total
(a) Live births -	Legitimate	106	87	193
	Illegitimate	3	1	4
		109	88	197

Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) - 13.1

(b) Still births		2	6	8

Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births) - 39

(c) Total Births	III	94	205

DEATHS

(a) Infantile -	Neonatal	-	3
	Other	-	2
		Total	5

Neonatal Death Rate (per 1,000 live births) - 15

Total Infantile Mortality Rate (" " ") - 25

DEATHS (Cont'd).

(b) Maternal..	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate ...	Nil
(c) Cancer	23
(d) Measles	Nil
(e) Whooping Cough.	Nil
(f) Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)...	Nil
(g) Tuberculosis - Pulmonary.	1
Non Pulmonary.. ...	Nil

(h) All Causes:-

Male	92
Female	86
Total	178

Death Rate (per 1,000 population)

(a) Crude	-	11.9
(b) Adjusted	-	12.5

The following is a statement showing comparative statistics for the years 1947 - 52.

	Live births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
									Total		Neo-natal	
	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births
Year 1952	197	13.1	178	11.9	8	39	Nil	Nil	5	25	3	15
Year 1951	178	11.9	197	13.2	4	22	Nil	Nil	3	17	2	11
" 1950	189	12.6	197	13.1	9	45	Nil	Nil	4	21	2	11
" 1949	197	13.2	164	11.0	9	44	Nil	Nil	7	36	-	-
" 1948	227	15.1	170	11.3	5	21	Nil	Nil	4	17	-	-
" 1947	268	17.9	180	12.0	14	49	Nil	Nil	12	44	-	-
Average 5 years 1947 - 1951	-	14.1	-	12.1	-	36	-	Nil	-	27	-	-

The following table gives the number of deaths from the various causes during the year 1952:-

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	-	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus and lymphatic neoplasms	5	11	16
Leukaemia aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	1	2	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	10	24
Coronary disease, angina	21	9	30
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
Other heart disease	18	24	42
Other circulatory diseases	2	3	5
Influenza	1	1	2
Pneumonia	1	4	5
Bronchitis	4	2	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	1	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	13	18
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	3	2	5
Suicide	2	-	2
Total	92	86	178

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

No material change.

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Ambulance Service

Atherton Ambulance Station - Tel. Atherton 165.
Horwich " " - Tel. Horwich 673.

Care of Children - Children Act, 1948.

Children's Committee, Lancs. C.C. - Area 9.
Area Children's Officer - Miss D.B. Roberts, Hyde Lodge,
Clarendon Rd., Eccles.
Tel. Eccles 1877.

Clinics

1. Antenatal

Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.
Thursday 9.30 - 12.0a.m.

2. Diphtheria Immunisation

(a) General Practioner Service
(b) Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton, by appointment.

3. Maternity and Child Welfare

Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.
Tuesday and Thursday 1.45 - 4.0p.m.

4. Ophthalmic

Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.
1st & 3rd Wednesday a.m. each month.
Last Friday a.m. " "

5. Orthopaedic

School Health Clinic, Jones Street, Horwich.
1st Wednesday each month.

6. Postnatal

Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.
Thursday 9.30. - 12.0a.m.

7. School Health and Minor Ailment.

School Health Clinic, Market Street, Westhoughton.
Monday and Thursday a.m.

8. Speech Therapy

Stone House Clinic, Leigh.
By appointment.

9. Tuberculosis Dispensary and Chest Clinic

(a) Church Street, Leigh.
(b) Civic Centre, Bolton.

10. Veneral Diseases

(a) Civic Centre, Bolton.
Males and Females:-
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30a.m. - 12.30p.m.
2.00p.m. - 7.30p.m.

(b) Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.

Males - Wednesday 2.00p.m. - 7p.m.
Females - " 2.00p.m. - 4p.m.
4.30p.m. - 7p.m.

Convalescence

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C. Apply to Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Convalescent Treatment

Under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital Board.

Health Visiting Service

A Health Visitor/School Nurse is employed full-time by the Lancs. C.C. in the district.

Home Help Service

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C. Apply to the Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Home Nursing Service

Two District Nurses are employed full-time in the District by the Lancs. C.C.

Hospitals

Royal Infirmary Bolton;
Bolton District General Hospital, Farnworth;
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan; and other general and infectious disease hospitals situated in the area of the Regional Hospital Board.

Laboratory Facilities

Regional Hospital Laboratory facilities at Bolton and Wigan Infirmaries, and the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

Maternity Homes

"Haslam", "Havercroft" and "Heaton Grange" Maternity Homes, Bolton. "Firs" Maternity Home, Leigh.

Midwifery Service

Two full-time domiciliary midwives are employed in the district by the Lancs. C.C.

Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children

Provision for their care is made by the Lancs. C.C.

Welfare Services

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C. Residential accommodation at Atherleigh Grange and Townleys Annexe. Apply to Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh. No hostels in the district.

Xray Facilities

Available at the Bolton and Wigan Infirmaries. Special facilities for chest Xray at the Hospital Board's Dispensaries and Chest Clinics.

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water Supply

Bolton Corporation supply the district with water which is derived from upland gathering grounds, and is treated and filtered before going into supply. The water is of good quality but being soft in nature there is a tendency to plumbo solvent action and all lead service piping is tin lined. All dwellings are supplied directly with water from the mains but from the point of view of quantity the supply to the higher parts of the district is distinctly poor. A Scheme involving the laying of new mains is nearing completion and it is hoped that this will improve the condition now existing although the Authority have not been allowed to carry out the scheme in its entirety.

The water is bacteriologically examined at Manchester and Bolton and 14 samples were examined during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage

This is on the combined system. There is one main sewage disposal plant at Rogers Farm and three subsidary plants at Dicconson Lane, Dog Holes Farm and Marsh Brook respectively.

Closet Accommodation

At the end of 1952 the approximate numbers and types of closet accommodation were as follows:-

Number of Privy Middens	86
Number of closets attached to these middens	113
Number of Pail Closets	12
Number of Dry Ashpits	72
Number of moveable Ashbins	4832
Number of Trough Closets (3 installations, Schools)	3
Number of Waste Water Closets	59
Number of Fresh Water Closets	5091

Conversions during 1952.

Number of Privy Closets to Fresh W.C's	1
Number of Privy Closets to Pails	-
Number of Waste Water Closets to Fresh W.C.'s	-
Number of premises at which moveable ashbins were substituted for fixed receptacles	1
Trough Closets to Washdown Pedestals (one installation)	7

Public Cleansing

A weekly collection of house refuse is carried out by the Local Authority under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, three motor vehicles being employed.

The privy middens which are situate in unsewered portions of the district are emptied regularly, all refuse being disposed of by controlled tipping.

Street scavenging is the responsibility of the Surveyor and is done with manual labour.

Salvage

The collection of paper, textiles and kitchen waste was maintained throughout the year and income from this source amounted to £757.

The fall in income is due to the reduction in the price of waste paper and the fact that the Mills are restricting their intake to correspond with their current rate of consumption.

Sanitary Inspections

Premises visited	1151
Number of visits:-	3678
Housing and Nuisances	1418
Factories	264
Infectious Diseases	27
Rodent Control	27
Offensive Trades	98
Schools	258
Shops	502
Bakehouses	195
Fish Friers	23
Butchers Shops	472
Ice Cream Premises	116
Miscellaneous	965
Defects or Nuisances:-	
Number discovered	588
Number abated	491
No. of Notices served:-	
Informal	274
Statutory	33

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

Outwork

There are no outworkers in the district.

Shops and Offices

No action has been taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934 and the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and sanitary accommodation, but 502 inspections of shops have been carried out on behalf of the Lancashire County Council.

Smoke Abatement

Twenty observations were taken during the year but no action was taken as a result of these.

Offensive Trades

We have one tripe dresser and one fat melter within the district, these premises are regularly visited.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no common Lodging Houses in the district.

Swimming Baths and Pools

There are no swimming baths or pools in the district.

Disinfestation

Three houses were found to be infested with bugs and were dealt with by spraying with a liquid insecticide containing 5% D.D.T.

Schools

The water supply to the Schools in the area is constant and sufficient, and regular colour washing of the conveniences is carried out. Three schools still have trough closets in use, 258 inspections have been made of the sanitary accommodation.

Factories &c.

Regular visits were paid to factories.

Inspections	On Register	Inspections	No. of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuting
Premises without mechanical power.	11	24	-	-
Premises with mechanical power.	68	153	2	-
Other Premises	6	24	3	-
	85	201	5	

Cases in which Defects were Found

Particulars	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness	-	-
Unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences	15	15

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

There are no premises in the area where rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

Rodent Control

During 1952 the work of rodent control continued, one part-time operative being employed.

All rat and mice infestations are promptly dealth with, private dwellings without conditions conducive to infestation, being treated free of charge. Treatment of business premises is charged on a basis of men's time and materials used.

Twenty four surface infestations were dealt with and in addition the sewers and sewage works in the district were systematically treated twice, in February and August.

Camping Sites

There are two licenced camping sites in the district which are occupied by one van in each case.

SECTION D

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk Supply

There are 71 cow keepers in the district four of which produce graded milk. The milk produced on these premises was sampled on 277 occasions. Six farmers from the outside districts retail raw milk in the area and these supplies were sampled on 20 occasions.

A total of 295 samples were submitted for examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli and of these 10 or 3.4% were found to be positive.

No milk supply was diverted for heat treatment.

All milk supplied to schools is heat treated.

Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, 53 persons were granted dealers licences to sell sterilised milk and 3 persons to sell pasteurised milk. Five dealers licences for the sale of Tuberculin Tested milk were also issued.

Action taken by local authority in relation to samples taken in the district:-

(a) Raw Milk

(i) Tuberculosis - biological test

No. of samples ..295.. No. negative ...285. No. positive ...10...

(ii) Methylene Blue reduction test

No. of samples ..283.. No. satisfact...263. No. unsatisfact.20...

(b) "Heat treated" milk - "Pasteurised".

(i) Phosphatase test

No. of samples ....14. No. satisfact....14. No. unsatisfact..7...

(ii) Methylene Blue Reduction Test

No. of samples ....14. No. satisfact....14. No. unsatisfact..7...

"Sterilised"

(iii) Turbidity test

No. of samples .....9. No. satisfact.....9. No. unsatisfact..7...

No. of notifications of tuberculous milk forwarded to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in respect of:-

(a) milk produced in the district... 10

(b) milk produced in other districts 1

Result of Ministry investigations within the district during the year arising from notifications by the local authority:-

No. of veterinary inspections 12

No. of cases where animals seized under Tuberculosis Order, 1938 7

No. of animals seized.. 7

No. of cases reported negative where animals had been sold prior to investigation.. 2

No of cases reported negative, no animals seized. 1

Ice Cream

Thirty-seven premises are registered for the sale of ice cream which is mainly "prepacked".

One hundred and four samples were collected and submitted for examination nineteen of which proved to be unsatisfactory.

Where samples on examination were found to be below Grade II special visits were made to those premises situated within the area. In the case of samples from a source outside the district the appropriate local authority was informed and follow-up samples taken.

Shell Fish

No cases of illness due to consumption of shell fish were reported.

Food Premises

All shops, stalls, vans, food stores, food preparing premises are inspected regularly as part of routine work.

Bakehouses

Thirty-one Bakehouses are registered in the district and are kept in fairly satisfactory condition, 195 inspections of these premises were made during the year.

Meat

The slaughter-houses in the district are out of use but the carcases of 18 pigs which were slaughtered under the Self Suppliers Scheme were examined.

Meat retailers premises are inspected regularly 472 inspections being carried out.

Food Condemned

The following foodstuffs were condemned and surrendered:-

Jellied Veal	6 lbs.
Cooked Ham	231 lbs.
Pork Luncheon Meat	165 tins
Beef	3½lbs.
Salmon	8 tins
Salad Cream	4 bottles
Beans	1 tin
Apricots	6 lbs.
Grapefruit	15 tins
Milk	5 tins
Tomatoes	9 tins
Cheese (Spread)	14 tins
Peas	7 tins
Rabbit	1 tin
Cherries	12 tins

In addition the following foodstuffs were returned to the Ministry of Food for processing.

Butter	7½ lbs.

Food Poisoning

No cases have been reported.

SECTION E

Housing

Statistics

Twenty four traditional type houses were completed on Hindleys Estate and the following accommodation was in hand at the end of the year, 28 x 3, 32 x 2 bedroom type houses and 4 shops with maisonettes. A further 22 houses have been let out on contract 18 x 3 and 4 x 2 bedroom type.

It is expected that the following will be commenced during 1953, 12 bungalows for aged people 8 x 1 and 4 x 2 bedroom type; 16 x 2 bedroom type flats; 35 x 3 and 13 x 2 bedroom houses.

Conditions - General Observations

Of the older houses in the district most consist of the four room cottage type, built in terraced rows. These are moderately well maintained but lack such amenities as baths and hot water installations.

Quite a few of these houses are now owner-occupied and in addition to being well maintained have been considerably improved.

Sufficiency of Supply of Houses

There were 459 applicants on the Council's Housing List, of these 287 were without separate homes and 172 were householders.

Fitness of Houses

The repair and maintenance of houses still remains a major problem which is constantly under observation by the Department, nevertheless there is a gradual decline in the standard of house maintenance due to the high cost of repairs. There is also a growing resistance of owners to pressure to execute repairs although the scope and standard of the work which they are now asked to perform is, in general, lower than in pre-war days.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Chicken Pox

The disease is not notifiable in the district. This disease is mainly of importance because of its tendency to simulate smallpox.

Diphtheria

No case occured in the district. Nevertheless there remains a real need to continue immunisation.

Dysentery

No case reported but there is reason to believe that cases have occured but being mild in character have escaped notification.

Acute Infectious Encephalitis

No case reported.

Erysipelas

No case reported.

Food Poisoning

This disease is notifiable under Section 17 of the Food and Drugs Act. No case was reported.

Malaria

No new or recurrent case reported.

Measles

A total of 64 notifications were received as against 35 the previous year. The disease was agin mild in character no untoward complications were reported, no case justified admission to hospital and all recovered.

Meningococcal Infection

No case notified.

Paratyphoid Fever

No case notified.

Pneumonia

The number of cases decreased from 6 in 1951 to 4 this year. Five died as against 3 the previous year.

Polioencephalitis

No case notified.

Poliomyelitis ("Infantile Paralysis").

No case notified.

Puerperal Pyrexia

No case notified.

Scarlet Fever

Eighteen cases occured as agianst 40 in 1951. Again the disease was mild in character, no complications were reported, only 1 had to be admitted to hospital and all recovered.

Smallpox

No case or contact reported.

Tuberculosis

Four new cases of respiratory and 3 of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year as against 7 respiratory and 3 non-respiratory the previous year. Only one death, from pulmonary disease, occured.

Whooping Cough

Twelve cases of whooping cough were notified as against 7 the previous year. A decision to institute immunisation under the provisions of the local health service is still awaited.

Cases of infectious diseases (other than tuberculosis) notified during the year, 1952.

	Cases Notified										Total Deaths	Cases removed to Hospital
	Total cases all ages	Under 1	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over		
Diphtheria	-											
Dysentery	-											
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	-											
Erysipelas	-											
Food Poisoning	-											
Measles	64	1	6	25	31	1						
Meningococcal Infection	-											
Pneumonia	4		1					1		2	5	
Polioencephalitis	-											
Poliomyelitis	-											
Puerperal Pyrexia	-											
Scarlet Fever	18		1	4	10	2	1					1
Small Pox	-											
Whooping Cough	12	1	3	2	6							
Total	98	2	11	31	47	3	1	1		2	5	1

Tuberculosis

New Cases and Mortality during 1952.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Years	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5			1	1				
10								
15			1					
20								
25								
35								
45	1	1						
55	2							
65 and upwards					1			
	3	1	2	1	1	-	-	-
	4		3		1		Nil	